

**REVISED MINUTES
JOINT BOARDS OF MAYOR AND BURGESSES
AND BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC HEARING – 2016/2017 FISCAL BUDGET
MAY 2, 2016**

1. Mayor N. Warren “Pete” Hess declared the public hearing open at **6:33 p.m.** with the following in attendance:

BURGESSES:

R. Neth, absent	L. Jackson
R. Burns	P. Scully, Sr.
K. Donovan	R. Vitale
C. Herb	D. Wisniewski
D. Hoff	

PRESS:

L. Marshall
P. Singley

RESIDENTS:

Sixty-six

FINANCE BOARD:

A. Bottinick	J. Savarese
A. Campbell, absent	D. Scinto
K. Kiernan	D. Sheridan, Jr.
A. Lopez	S. Stirk
A. Pistarelli	

ALTERNATES:

R. Burke
E. Fennell
W. McAllister, absent

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

S. Locke, Superintendent of Schools
M. Katra, Republican Registrar
E. Murray, Fire Chief

R. Butler, Controller
J. Kallipolites, IT Director

OTHERS:

D. Neth-Kunin, Board of Education
J. Miller, Howard Whittemore Library Director
F. Flores, Conservation Commission
M. Leonard, Conservation Commission

J. Scully, Board of Education
E. Carter, Mayoral Aide
C. Marengi, Arts Comm.
D. Cronin, ZBA

2. Burgess Robert Burns led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
3. Mayor Hess welcomed everyone to the public hearing and acknowledged all present from the Board of Mayor and Burgesses, Board of Finance, the Controller, and Borough Clerk.
4. Mayor Hess introduced the Chairwoman of the Board of Finance, Diane Scinto who stated the purpose of the public hearing and gave the ground rules for conducting the hearing and also stated, for the record, that the hearing was being recorded legally. Chairwoman Scinto took comments from the public after they stated their name and address.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue

Glad the Board of Education came in flat with their budget. Wishes something could be done across the board with other departments.

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R. Mavricz – 832 Field Street

He asked if the student population is going up or down. The town spent \$81,000,000 on this beautiful school. We have no more money. Our property values are going down. Vacant businesses are lost revenue. The streets are in terrible condition.

C. Vishe – 11 Bailey Road

Naugatuck was once a thriving town and now it is a depressed area. We were told the debt for the high school renovation was not going to affect our taxes. It was supposed to be cost neutral.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

W. Stopper – 117 Stonefence Road

He asked why it's illegal for the town to reduce the Board of Education budget. Suggested town departments apply a zero base budget going forward. Start at zero and only add what is needed for the upcoming year. The town is a big business and should run like one.

D. Cronin – 75 Damson Lane

Are there plans to build another school in the future?

R. Mavricz – 832 Field Street

He said it takes several months of rent on a three family house just to pay the taxes. The DEEP said we have a phosphate problem. The town should go to the state and tell them we cannot afford to fix it.

A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue

With the current tax structure, no one is coming into our town. It's not just Naugatuck, the whole state too. If we can't reduce our tax structure, we have nothing to offer. He thinks four new employees will increase our costs, not reduce our costs. There should be a hiring freeze. It's not a good time to install LED lights. The cost is going down for LED lights. The board needs to change its viewpoint. You can't spend what you don't have.

C. Vishe – 11 Bailey Road

Have we been in touch with our state representatives regarding unfunded mandates?

M. Katra – 84 Walnut Street – Republican Registrar

He clarified for the board that the elections budget includes a primary vote, a presidential election and two referendums. The proposed grant contractor in the finance budget should be paid by the revenue they bring in.

M. Leonard – 450 Gunntown Road

Why is the postage line item high? All the tax bills should be sent in one envelope to the same address to save on postage.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

K. Kuzma – 438 Allerton Road

Commended the Board of Education for submitting a balanced budget. He said it is tough living in this town raising four children. He thinks it's not a birthright to obtain raises. Would like to see a staffing comparison to a similar size town. He doesn't know why overtime is still being calculated into pensions. Heard police officers say it is like hitting the lottery to work for the Borough of Naugatuck and be able to retire at forty years old.

M. Katra – 84 Walnut Street

The NEDC should be cut because we have not seen one shovel in the ground.

W. Stopper – 117 Stonefence Road

Is seventy percent of the budget locked by unions?

A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue

The police union contract should not have been negotiated if the town is in the hole. Police employees on the verge of retiring are given overtime to inflate their pensions.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue

We should regionalize the sewer treatment plant. The sewer system should be run as a use system. If you use it, you pay for it.

K. Kuzma – 438 Allerton Road

He would like the board to put more money into the senior center budget.

D. Cronin – 75 Damson Lane

Wouldn't the town be better off if we privatize the golf course and the restaurant? Then we would collect taxes.

J. Kelley – 144 Johnson Street

The treatment plant didn't cost the town a nickel. What happened that we have to pay now?

A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue

Have we considered how much it costs for us to send out our waste? Does it make sense to do that instead of getting rid of the plant?

PUBLIC WORKS

M. Katra – 84 Walnut Street

How much is the golf course loosing or are we breaking even? Where are the actual numbers for last year's budget?

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K. Kuzma – 438 Allerton Road

He would like the board to find money to fund the public works department. Fixing roads, parks and fields is money well spent.

A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue

Will we be able to use the armory right away if we have the money in this budget?

R. Hayne (spelling?) – ??? Road

We should explore selling the land at the Peter Paul property. If we helped to get something in there, it would be beneficial to the town.

W. Hass – 104 Evelyn Drive

He doesn't see a budget line item for repaving streets.

DEBT

None

PENSIONS

None

INSURANCE

None

COMMUNITY SERVICES

P. Scalisi – 40 Sheffield Lane

Thanked the board for crafting the budget and negotiating with Veolia. He said the library is as important as other town departments. The library is a valuable resource for people who don't have computers such as students needing to do homework projects or firefighters taking a practice entry exam.

J. McDonald – 244 Spencer Street

He has personally benefited from the staff at the library. Please consider salary adjustments for these worthy individuals.

A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue

He supports a minor increase in the library budget.

M. Berthold – 77 Homestead Avenue

She moved to Naugatuck one and a half years ago. The library made her feel a sense of community. She belonged. Please increase the funding for the library.

D. Andrade – 168 Walnut Street

He has lived in Naugatuck for five years. The library provides valuable resources. He volunteers at the library, park department and youth services.

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M. Katra – 84 Walnut Street

Why is workers compensation so high? The new grant contractor could possibly find grant money for the library.

RESERVE FUND

J. Miller – 385 Park Avenue – Howard Whittemore Library Director

The library did not receive \$113,844 under last year's adopted budget as stated in the budget book handout.

A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue

Do not buy new police vehicles. We are not in a good spot.

CONTINGENCY

None

REVENUES

A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue

How long has the Veolia litigation been going on? We should not have put money in the budget based on the hope of selling properties.

5. Chairwoman Scinto declared the public hearing closed at **9:32 p.m.**

A digital recording of this meeting is available in the office of the Borough Clerk for further review.

Attest:

Nancy K. DiMeo
Borough Clerk